

**From:** Brent Laminack  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 8:17am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs,

I'm opposed to the Proposed Microsoft Settlement on a number of points. First, let me state that I work part-time as an instructor at the Georgia Institute of Technology's College of Computing. I have twenty years experience in the computer field.

To summarize my objections, the proposed settlement simply doesn't give other software companies enough information to compete. The proposed settlement opens up some "middleware" APIs. This is simply inadequate. In order to be truly effective, the settlement must require Microsoft to open all APIs and file formats for all their products, along with all hardware interface specifications they exchange with hardware manufacturers. Microsoft must also provide these APIs and interfaces to everyone who wants them. The current settlement allows Microsoft to provide these only to companies that they deem to be a viable business. Therein lies the proverbial Catch-22. Without the APIs and hardware interfaces, no other company could ever become a viable business.

One other note, the three-person oversight committee must be made of people selected by Microsoft competitors, not Microsoft. Otherwise Microsoft becomes its own policeman.

In short, I believe the proposed settlement does essentially nothing break up the Microsoft monopoly and relieve the consumer.

Thank you for your consideration,

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